

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

KOHLER CO.,

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

SIGNATURE PLUMBING
SPECIALTIES LLC,

Defendant(s).

23-cv- 9686 (AS)

CASE MANAGEMENT
ADDENDUM (PATENT)

In addition to the deadlines specified in the civil case management plan and scheduling order, the Court adopts the following additional provisions:

1. Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, no later than 5/10/24, a party claiming patent infringement shall serve on all parties a “Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions.” Separately for each opposing party, the Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions shall contain the following information:

(a) Each claim of each asserted patent that is allegedly infringed by each opposing party, including for each claim the applicable statutory subsections of 35 U.S.C. § 271 asserted;

(b) Separately for each asserted claim, each accused apparatus, product, device, process, method, act, or other instrumentality (“Accused Instrumentality”) of each opposing party of which the party is aware. This identification shall be as specific as possible. Each product, device, and apparatus shall be identified by name or model number, if known. Each method or process shall be identified by name, if known, or by any product, device, or apparatus that, when used, allegedly results in the practice of the claimed method or process;

(c) A chart identifying specifically where and how each limitation of each asserted claim is found within each Accused Instrumentality, including for each limitation that such party contends is governed by 35 U.S.C. § 112(f), the identity of the structure(s), act(s), or material(s) in the Accused Instrumentality that performs the claimed function;

(d) For each claim alleged to have been indirectly infringed, an identification of any direct infringement and a description of the acts of the alleged indirect infringer that contribute to or are inducing that direct infringement. Insofar as alleged direct infringement is based on joint acts of multiple parties, the role of each such party in the direct infringement must be described;

(e) Whether each limitation of each asserted claim is alleged to be present in the Accused Instrumentality literally or under the doctrine of equivalents;

(f) For any patent that claims priority to an earlier application, the priority date to which each asserted claim is alleged to be entitled;

(g) If a party claiming patent infringement wishes to preserve the right to rely, for any purpose, on the assertion that its own or its licensee's apparatus, product, device, process, method, act, or other instrumentality practices the claimed invention, the party shall identify, separately for each asserted claim, each such apparatus, product, device, process, method, act, or other instrumentality that incorporates or reflects that particular claim ("Embodying Instrumentality");

(h) The timing of the point of first infringement, the start of claimed damages, and the end of claimed damages; and

(i) If a party claiming patent infringement alleges willful infringement, the basis for such allegation.

2. Document Production Accompanying Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions. With the Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions, the party claiming patent infringement shall produce to each opposing party or make available for inspection and copying:

(a) Documents (e.g., contracts, purchase orders, invoices, advertisements, marketing materials, offer letters, beta site testing agreements, and third party or joint development agreements) sufficient to evidence each discussion with, disclosure to, or other manner of providing to a third party, or each sale of or offer to sell, or any public use of, the claimed invention prior to the date of application for the asserted patent(s);

(b) All documents evidencing the conception, reduction to practice, design, and development of each claimed invention, which were created on or before the date of application for the asserted patent(s) or the priority date identified pursuant to paragraph 1(f) of this Order, whichever is earlier;

(c) A copy of the file history for each asserted patent;

(d) All documents evidencing ownership of the patent rights by the party asserting patent infringement;

(e) If a party identifies instrumentalities pursuant to paragraph 1(g) of this Order, documents sufficient to show the operation of any aspects or elements of such instrumentalities the patent claimant relies upon as embodying any asserted claims;

(f) All agreements, including licenses, transferring an interest in any asserted patent;

(g) All agreements that the party asserting infringement contends are comparable to a license that would result from a hypothetical reasonable royalty negotiation;

(h) All agreements that otherwise may be used to support the party asserting infringement's damages case;

(i) If a party identifies instrumentalities pursuant to paragraph 1(g) of this Order, documents sufficient to show marking of such Embodying Instrumentalities; and if the party wants to preserve the right to recover lost profits based on such products, the sales, revenues, costs, and profits of such Embodying Instrumentalities; and

(j) All documents comprising or reflecting a F/RAND commitment or agreement with respect to the asserted patent(s).

The producing party shall separately identify by production number the documents that correspond to each category set forth in this paragraph. A party's production of a document as required by this paragraph shall not constitute an admission that such document evidences or is prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

3. Invalidity Contentions. ~~Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, no later than 45 days after service upon it of the Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions,~~ each party opposing a claim of patent infringement shall serve on all parties its "Invalidity Contentions," which shall contain the following information:

(a) The identity of each item of prior art that the party alleges anticipates each asserted claim or renders the claim obvious. Each prior art patent shall be identified by its number, country of origin, and date of issue. Each prior art publication shall be identified by its title, date of publication, and, where feasible, author and publisher. Each alleged sale or public use shall be identified by specifying the item offered for sale or publicly used or known, the date the offer or use took place or the information became known, and the identity of the person(s) or entity(ies) that made the use or made and received the offer, or the person(s) or entity(ies) that made the information known or to

whom it was made known. For pre-AIA claims, prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) shall be identified by providing the name of the person(s) from whom and the circumstances under which the invention or any part of it was derived. For pre-AIA claims, prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(g) shall be identified by providing the identities of the person(s) or entity(ies) involved in and the circumstances surrounding the making of the invention before the patent applicant(s);

(b) Whether each item of prior art anticipates each asserted claim or renders it obvious. If obviousness is alleged, an explanation of why the prior art renders the asserted claim obvious, including an identification of any combinations of prior art showing obviousness;

(c) A chart identifying specifically where and how in each alleged item of prior art each limitation of each asserted claim is found, including, for each limitation that such party contends is governed by 35 U.S.C. § 112(f), the identity of the structure(s), act(s), or material(s) in each item of prior art that performs the claimed function; and

(d) Any grounds of invalidity based on 35 U.S.C. § 101, indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. § 112(b), or lack of enablement or insufficient written description under 35 U.S.C. § 112(a) of any of the asserted claims.

4. Document Production Accompanying Invalidity Contentions. With the Invalidity Contentions, the party opposing a claim of patent infringement shall produce or make available for inspection and copying:

(a) Source code, specifications, schematics, flow charts, artwork, formulas, or other documentation sufficient to show the operation of any aspects or elements of an Accused Instrumentality identified by the patent claimant in its chart produced pursuant to paragraph 1(c) of this Order;

(b) A copy or sample of the prior art identified pursuant to paragraph 3(a) that does not appear in the file history of the patent(s) at issue. To the extent any such item is not in English, an English translation of the portion(s) relied upon shall be produced;

(c) All agreements that the party opposing infringement contends are comparable to a license that would result from a hypothetical reasonable royalty negotiation;

(d) Documents sufficient to show the sales, revenue, cost, and profits for Accused Instrumentalities identified pursuant to paragraph 1(b) of this Order for any period of alleged infringement; and

(e) All agreements that may be used to support the damages case of the party opposing infringement.

The producing party shall separately identify by production number the documents that correspond to each category set forth in this paragraph.

5. Amendment to Contentions. Amendment of the Infringement Contentions or the Invalidity Contentions may be made only by order of the Court upon a timely showing of good cause. Non-exhaustive examples of circumstances that may, absent undue prejudice to the non-moving party, support a finding of good cause include (a) recent discovery of material prior art despite earlier diligent search and (b) recent discovery of nonpublic information about the Accused Instrumentality that was not discovered, despite diligent efforts, before the service of the Infringement Contentions. The duty to supplement discovery responses does not excuse the need to obtain leave of the Court to amend contentions.

6. Claim Construction Issue Identification. On or before 07/01/24, the parties shall exchange a list of those claim term(s)/phrase(s) that they believe need construction and their proposed claim construction(s) of those term(s)/phrase(s). This document will not be

filed with the Court. Subsequent to exchanging that list, the parties will meet and confer to prepare a Joint Claim Construction Chart to be filed no later than 07/08/24. The Joint Claim Construction Chart, in Word format, shall be e-mailed simultaneously with filing to SubramanianNYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov. The text for the Joint Claim Construction Chart shall be 12-point and in Times New Roman or a similar typeface. The parties' Joint Claim Construction Chart should identify for the Court the term(s)/phrase(s) of the claim(s) in issue and should include each party's proposed construction of the disputed claim language with citation(s) only to the intrinsic evidence in support of their respective proposed constructions. A separate text-searchable PDF of each of the patent(s) in issue shall be submitted with this Joint Claim Construction Chart. In this joint submission, the parties shall not provide argument. Each party shall file concurrently with the Joint Claim Construction Chart a "Motion for Claim Construction" that requests the Court to adopt the claim construction position(s) of that party set forth in the Joint Claim Construction Chart. The motion shall not contain any argument and shall simply state that the party "requests that the Court adopt the claim construction position[s] of [the party] set forth in the Joint Claim Construction Chart (D.I. [])."

7. ~~Claim Construction Briefing. The Plaintiff shall serve, but not file, its opening brief, not to exceed 5,500 words, on _____. The Defendant shall serve, but not file, its answering brief, not to exceed 8,250 words, on _____. The Plaintiff shall serve, but not file, its reply brief, not to exceed 5,500 words, on _____. The Defendant shall serve, but not file, its sur-reply brief, not to exceed 2,750 words, on _____. The text for each brief shall be 12-point and in Times New Roman or a similar typeface. Each brief must include a certification by counsel that the brief complies with the type and number limitations set forth above. The person who prepares the certification may rely on the word count of the word processing system used to prepare the brief.~~

No later than _____, the parties shall file a Joint Claim Construction Brief. (Should the parties later stipulate or otherwise request to have this deadline extended, the parties will presumptively lose their claim construction hearing date upon the Court's granting the extension.) The parties shall copy and paste their untitled briefs into one brief, with their positions on each claim term in sequential order, in substantially the form below.

JOINT CLAIM CONSTRUCTION BRIEF

I. ~~Agreed-upon~~ Constructions

H. ~~Disputed~~ Constructions

A. {TERM 1}

1. ~~Plaintiff's Opening Position~~
2. ~~Defendant's Answering Position~~
3. ~~Plaintiff's Reply Position~~
4. ~~Defendant's Sur-Reply Position~~

B. {TERM 2}

1. ~~Plaintiff's Opening Position~~
2. ~~Defendant's Answering Position~~
3. ~~Plaintiff's Reply Position~~
4. ~~Defendant's Sur-Reply Position~~

The parties need not include any general summaries of the law relating to claim construction. If there are any materials that would be submitted in an appendix, the parties shall submit them in a Joint Appendix. Citations to intrinsic evidence shall be set forth in the Joint Claim Construction Brief. Citations to expert declarations and other extrinsic evidence may be made in the Joint Claim Construction Brief as the parties deem necessary, but the Court will review such extrinsic evidence only if the Court is unable to construe the disputed claim terms based on the intrinsic evidence. ~~See Vitronics Corp. v. Conceptronic, Inc., 90 F.3d 1576, 1584 (Fed. Cir. 1996).~~ Declarations shall not contain legal argument or be used to circumvent the briefing word limitations imposed by this paragraph.


8. ~~Meet and Confer Confirmation and Amended Claim Chart. On or before _____, Lead Trial Counsel for the parties shall meet and confer and thereafter file an Amended Joint Claim Construction Chart that sets forth the terms that remain in dispute. During the meet and confer, the parties shall attempt to reach agreement on any disputed terms where possible and to narrow the issues related to the remaining disputed terms. The parties shall file with the Amended Joint Claim Construction Chart a letter that identifies by name each individual who participated in the meet and confer, when and how (i.e., by telephone or in person) the meet and confer occurred, and how long it lasted. If no agreements on constructions have been reached or if no dispute has been narrowed as a result of the meet and confer, the letter shall so state, and the parties need not file an Amended Joint Claim Construction Chart.~~

9. Hearing on Claim Construction. To the extent the Court would like argument on claim construction, such a hearing will be consolidated with summary judgment proceedings. ~~Beginning at [to be filled in by the Court], the Court will hear argument on claim construction. Absent prior approval of the Court (which, if it is sought, must be done by joint letter submission no later than the date on which answering claim construction briefs are due to be served), the parties shall not present testimony at the argument, and the argument shall not exceed a total of two hours.~~

New York, New York

SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 30, 2024



ARUN SUBRAMANIAN
United States District Judge